

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for holding a fish, comprising:

a molded plastic clip having two or more opposing protrusions rotatable about a spacer, the protrusions moveable between a first position and a second position, the protrusions urged towards one another by a biasing member to create a gripping force between the protrusions, in the first position, the gripping force capable of holding a fish without punching a hole in the fish and a ledge spaced from the spacer for restricting movement of the biasing member; and

a length of rope having a loop formed at a first end, the loop securing the rope to the clip, the loop capable of exerting a force on the biasing member thereby increasing the gripping force.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the protrusions and the biasing member are molded as one piece.

3. (canceled) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the clip is molded from an acetal resin.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rope is a braided hollow polypropylene.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the loop is formed by inserting the first end of the rope inside the hollow rope a spaced distance from the first end.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.

130 W. CUSHING ST.

TUCSON, AZ 85701

TEL. 520.882.7623

FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET

MANCHESTER, NH 03101

TEL. 603.668.1400

FAX. 603.668.8567

6. (canceled) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rope has a positive buoyancy in water.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rope comprises a second end, the second end forming a loop to assist in holding the rope.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rope comprises a second end, the second end comprising a marker for indicating the weight of an attached fish.

9. (canceled) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rope is adapted to float on the surface of water.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the protrusions are angled towards the biasing member.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the protrusions further comprise a plurality of grooves to assist in the holding of the fish.

12. (currently amended) An apparatus for holding a fish, comprising:

a clip formed of two or more molded plastic elongated rigid members, the rigid members having a first end and a second end, the rigid members each having a gripping portion at the first end for holding a fish without punching a hole in the fish, the rigid members rotatable about a spacer located between the first ends and the second ends

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.

130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

*CP
Canceled*

end, a biasing member coupled to the rigid members urging the second ends to move away from one another and the first ends to move towards one another, and a ledge spaced from the spacer for restricting movement of the biasing member; and

a length of rope coupled to the biasing member, the rope capable of exerting a force on the biasing member further urging the second ends of the rigid members to move away from one another.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the rigid members, the spacer, and the biasing member are molded as one piece.

14. (canceled) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the clip is molded from an acetal resin.

CP

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the rope is a braided hollow polypropylene.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the rope has a loop formed at a first end of the rope, the loop coupling the rope to the clip.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the loop is formed by inserting the first end of the rope inside the hollow rope a spaced distance from the first end.

18. (canceled) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the rope has a positive buoyancy in water.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.

130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the rope comprises a second end, the second end forming a loop to assist in holding the rope.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the rope is adapted to float on the surface of water.

21. (new) An apparatus for holding a fish, comprising:

28
a molded plastic clip having a first member and a second member coupled to and pivotal about a spacer, a first protrusions disposed at a first end of the first member and a second protrusion disposed at a first end of the second member, the protrusions extending towards each other and angled towards the spacer, the opposing protrusions moveable between a first position and a second position, a biasing member spaced from the spacer, the biasing member having a first end coupled to a second end of the first member and a second end in sliding contact with the second member, the biasing member causing the protrusions to move towards each other to create a gripping force between the protrusions capable of holding a fish without punching a hole in the fish; and

a length of rope having a loop formed at a first end, the loop securing the rope to the clip, the loop capable of exerting a force on the biasing member thereby increasing the gripping force.

22. (new) The apparatus for holding a fish of claim 21, wherein the protrusions have a plurality of grooves to assist in the gripping of the fish.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.

130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

28
Concluded

23. (new) The apparatus of claim 21, the clip further having a lip stop.

24. (new) The apparatus of claim 1, the clip further having a lip stop.

25. (new) The apparatus of claim 12, the clip further having a lip stop.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.

130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567